UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION

IPF:(1992-96) $30 700 000
(RLA/92/G33) (RLA/92/G32), (RLA/92/G31), (RLA/92/030) - Regional Strategies for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Amazon

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	20 January *1993*
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT)
Proposed GEF contribution:	$4 071 000
Third-party cost sharing:	$ 815 100 Source of funds: IDB
Total UNDP budget:	$4 886 100

Project background

The Amazon region, with nearly eight million square kilometers of tropical rainforest, contains the greatest biological diversity of any region on Earth. With roughly half of the world's plant and animal species, the Amazon is a vast repository of genetic resources that has critical importance on local, regional and global levels. In addition to having great aesthetic, cultural and scientific value, Amazonian species of plants and animals contribute significantly to the local, regional and world economy. To ensure that these natural resources provide benefits now and into the future, it is necessary to develop sustainable forms of management through which Amazonian ecosystems can contribute to the region's well-being without degrading the environment, as under the agricultural and ranching models used in the past.

While the Amazon region has a tremendous potential for sustainably providing benefits from natural resources, the forest environment is rapidly being degraded due to migration from settled areas with low productivity, a lack of funding for the management of reserved areas, and disorderly patterns of land occupation and resource exploitation. Fundamental policies, according to the conclusions of the report, Amazon Without Myths (IDB-UNDP-ACT, 1992), must be geared toward improving production in settled and affected areas, rehabilitating degraded areas, managing protected areas; ordering the use of unaffected areas through ecological zoning and land use planning; improving education and training conditions; building the capacity of Amazonian institutions responsible for managing natural resources in, and increasing the involvement of local dwellers in resource management and its benefits.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to implement three subprogrammes with regional strategies for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

the Amazon. Subprogramme I on the "Ecological Zoning and Geographical Monitoring of the Amazon Basin" will strengthen regional capacities to assess and monitor the biological resources of the Amazon basin in a coordinated manner using a Geographical Information System (GIS); will develop a regional consensus on GIS and zoning methods; will create mechanisms for regional coordination of zoning projects through the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; and will provide technical assistance and build the capacity of national institutions to use a regional GIS system and to elaborate a baseline zoning of their respective Amazonian areas that is consistent with the ecological conditions and with the socioeconomic needs of local and indigenous inhabitants.

Subprogramme II on "Capacity Building for The Sustainable Use of Biodiversity" will strengthen the capacity of key national institutions to manage sustainably biological resources; will prepare research studies on major policy issues regarding the sustainable use of biodiversity management; will aid national institutions to recover biodiversity information existing outside the region; will support coordination efforts to provide a systematic exchange of information on biodiversity among Amazonian countries; and will support the development and execution of research projects carried out by a leading institution in each of the eight member countries of the ACT to develop improved methods for the sustainable use of Amazonian biodiversity.

Subprogramme III on "Natural Resource Management on Indigenous Lands" will prepare and implement three pilot projects together with indigenous communities in Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia respectively. Each project will be developed jointly with the indigenous counterparts who will carry out the project. These three projects will help assess the potential of environmental management strategies based on indigenous knowledge and traditions and help to develop viable ways to sustainable manage natural resources with the involvement of, and direct benefit to, the local and indigenous communities of the Amazon basin.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 252 man-months of national personnel totalling (US) $566,000; 130.8 man-months of international professional personnel totalling (US) $1,528,100; subcontracts; training; equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	2 094 100
Subcontract	1 260 000
Training	877 000
Equipment	490 000
Miscellaneous	165 000
Total	4 886 100

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